



## OUUF Board Meeting Minutes – January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025

**(1) Call to Order** - 12:29 pm called to order by Candace. Lighting of the Chalice

In Attendance:

Candace Brower, Michael Bucierka, Joan Cotta, Dave Large, Dianne Whitaker, Ken Nielsen, Nels Peterson, Brian Berardo, Harmony Rutter

Absent: Greg Sensiba

**(2) President's Remarks** - Candace quoted the Prime Minister of India

Candace spoke about her leadership style. Stated that she will be a delegator. Doesn't like to micromanage.

Michael and Dianne will be her proxies. They carry a lot of institutional knowledge.

Candace thanked Joan since she is going to be the parliamentarian and help us make sure we're following Roberts Rules.

Will use a clock timer to help us stay on time.

Candace's role: she views this as working on and stewarding the organization's Vision and Mission and making sure everyone's input is heard and included.

**(Changes requested by Candace Brower)**

~~She shared Plato's parable of the charioteer. Candace used this to frame her outreach style.~~

Candace created a metaphor wherein she peers through the windshield at a dark and murky ~~world.~~ **future.** "Where are the targets of opportunity and the little spots of light. Move in that direction."

For her, coming to this Fellowship is one of the little spots of light.

Candace stated that she looks at being the President as an opportunity to help all the points of light come together.

Let's help our Fellowship be a Beacon of Light so that others that of similar mind are feeling compelled and invited to be a part of it.

Metaphor of the pot. All of the board members are the ingredients and how to do we work well together. Other ingredients are kindness.

Candace brought in her own Kachina doll just like Rose did at the November Board Meeting. She hopes to have this be a reminder to stay light and bring in laughter.

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**Now we move into the business portion.**

Candace explained the reorganization of the Agenda and reasoning for why the committee reports are now alphabetized. Items on the agenda that are in bold are those where discussion and actions are required.

Candace requests that we table Oversight of OUUF Social Events to next meeting to save time.

Item 10.D needs to be discussed in Executive Session.

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### **(3) Agenda**

*Joan moves to approve the agenda as amended to table item 10.C Oversight of OUUF Social Events and to discuss item 10.D in Executive Session.*

*Nels 2nd*

*Motion carries unanimously.*

Candace clarified that the president is a tie-breaking vote. The Presidential Assistants are not voting members. However, for today's meeting, Greg Sensiba has designated Dianne Whitaker as his proxy and she will vote in today's meeting.

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### **(4) Minutes**

*Dave Moves to approve the minutes from the 11-24-24 meeting*

*Brian 2nd*

*Motion carries unanimously*

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### **(5) Finance Report**

Dianne discussed the fact that this report is interim. From end of Nov. and end of Dec. Things won't add up because some of the checks haven't cleared the account yet.

Greg is out of town and the bookkeeper was only available on a limited basis due to her husband's medical issues. Dianne created this report as best as she could. Things will get easier once Greg is back in town and the bookkeeper spends more time on the books.

*Ken moves to approve the Finance Report.*

*Brian 2nd*

*Dave said that we can approve this with the understanding that this is a basic edition.*

*They will get better and more detailed*

*Motion carries unanimously*

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### **(6) Admin's Report**

Harmony summarized the written content of the Admin report. The board members expressed their gratitude for the Admin's work and contributions to the Fellowship.

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*\* Note: the agenda was mis-numbered and skipped from 6 to 8.*

### **(8.A) Capital Improvement Committee CIC**

Michael provided a brief description of the various challenges and considerations that need to be considered before any type of building starts

The next building will need a secondary septic field *(addition by Michael Bucierka: if we add bath rooms/kitchen.)*

The 2<sup>nd</sup> building could include just an RE space, or it could hold a larger sanctuary and an RE space.

30 people each pledging \$10,000 is what we need to get started. This discussion was started by Rose Prestipino. So far there are six \$10,000 pledges.

Michael cautioned us that we don't want to build ourselves into obsolescence. He would like to make a data driven and realistic decision. Church attendance all across the US has dropped in all denominations.

Michael shared that after the first building was built, the initial future plan was that once the Fellowship reached and maintained 125 pledging units, then they would start building phase 2.

Do we have 125 pledging units? Have never gotten there and are still not there.

*Dianne suggested that we table this discussion for the Retreat.*

CIC will meet again in a few weeks.

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### **(8.C) Children's RE**

Dianne shared that Marea Denton was recently hired and is a very talented 15-year-old from the Five Acre Community. She will be working 2.5 hours a week to facilitate the children's programming. An adult will be close by since she is a minor.

Dianne will be her supervisor.

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### **(8.D) Green Sanctuary**

George and Jolie are leaving the GS Committee.

February 23<sup>rd</sup> – the Congregational Conversation (Forums) will be moved out to end of March. Social Action and Green Sanctuary are becoming one large project.

The GS Committee will be exploring a Social Action group. The forums are moving to the last Sunday of the month.

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the Month will now be the Board Meetings.

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday is Sunday Service Committee.

3<sup>rd</sup> Potluck

4<sup>th</sup> Forums

*Brian moves to establish the 1<sup>st</sup> Sundays as the Board Meeting and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays for Forums or Congregational Conversations.*

*Ken 2<sup>nd</sup>*

*Motion carries unanimously.*

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**(8.E) Healthy Fellowship**

Emily shared that Candace has also joined this committee. Committee members are looking into the pastoral training from the UUA and are looking at creating a process for mediation. They are moving towards being a proactive group where they are constantly working with Fellowship community rather than just doing an intervention when things have gotten difficult.

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**(8.H) Membership**

*Affirm new members Neva Alderson and Jerry Siebert, Ida Domazlicky and Bruce Domazlicky, Zeelinda Dissinger and Don Dissinger, Bodhi Harbour, George Stevens-Modica.*

*Dave Moves*

*Dianne 2<sup>nd</sup>*

*Motion carries unanimously*

New Member welcoming ceremony will be 10 minutes long. Hymn #360 will be part of the festivities.

New Member Orientation January 26<sup>th</sup> 1.5 hours after the service. 3 parts.

Part 1 needs a board vote. Can the Committee Chairs make a presentation to the new members?

Invite the Committees to send the Chair or a proxy.

*Board consensus is for Committee to proceed with inviting Committee Chairs to Orientation.*

Invite folks to share about how they became a UU.

The Committee Chairs will share info about their committee and then if comfortable they can share why they became a UU.

Emily would like to start a new directory format. With photos. Could this be online? No, will only be distributed via email upon request.

Emeritus members will also be included.

*Dianne moves to create a voluntary OUUF member directory with options for members to share photos and contact information at their comfort level. It will be distributed upon request via email.*

*Brian 2<sup>nd</sup>*

***Motion carries unanimously***

Pledges – Emily reached out to inactive members last year in January and February to check in with them. Some re-upped their pledge and renewed membership. She is asking for board approval to continue this work.

***Board consensus is for her to continue***

Volunteer time in lieu of money. Membership committee will keep track of this.

Emily will keep on building the relationships.

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**(10.A) Board Retreat**

Schedule the retreat in January or February. 12-2 on a Saturday. Final day and time will be finalized via email.

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**(10.E) Kitchen Committee Creation**

Need a new structure, 5-member committee.

***Joan moves to create a 5-person committee to cover the kitchen tasks where folks trade out the Sundays, similarly to how the Sunday Service Leaders organize themselves.***

*Nels 2<sup>nd</sup>*

***Motion carries unanimously***

2:09 pm Meeting is adjourned.

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2:10 pm Board goes into Executive Session to discuss transitioning the Administrator from salaried position to a timecard-based pay system. This will allow for her time and contribution to be accurately accounted for and compensated for. The Admin stated her agreement and that this is the outcome that will work best for her.

Administrator left the Board Meeting and waited in the building Foyer for the conversation to be concluded.

Upon return, the Admin was informed that the board approved of this change.

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Board minutes created and respectfully submitted by:

Harmony Rutter

OOUF Administrator

January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025

**OUUF Board Reports  
for meeting on 01/5/2025**

**(5) Approval of Finance Report**

Prepared this month by Dianne Whitaker

FINANCIAL REPORT 12/30/2024

11/30/2024 12/30/2024

Balance in Checking Account 129,969.44 151,928.49

December Additions 32,307.68

December Subtractions 10,348.63

December Expenditures Bank 7642.53

Speaker's Fees 1600

Speaker Mileage 150.08

Janitorial Services 415

President's Discretionary Expense 52.22

Solid Waste 43.68

Accounting 420

Electric 231.31

Church and Grounds Expense 756.08

Landline and Wi-Fi 164.70

Software and Technology 372.97

Office/Kitchen Supplies 371.02

Actual Expenditures 4577.06

Non-budgeted: Dedicated Funds 2806.52

Little Free Pantry 2714.52

Little Free Library 92

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**(6) Admin's Report**

Prepared by Harmony Rutter

- Elinor and Seri are learning how to use Constant Contact and will begin stewarding a weekly news publication for the community in early 2025. They are accepting newsletter submissions to a new email address – ouufnewsletter@outlook.com
- Facility Use Agreements with Renters are being updated and finalized as time allows.
- A draft edition of the 2025 calendar is under construction. The online calendar is being updated as events are confirmed with Facility Users.
- Yearly building maintenance and facility checks are being investigated, organized and scheduled. Harmony will collaborate with Michael Bucierka on its completion.
- Going forward timecards will begin using a code system to designate whether Harmony's time is spent on A-Admin M-Music T-Technology.

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**(A) Capital Improvement Committee - CIC**

Prepared by Michael Bucierka

*No report received at this time...*

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**(B) Care Team**

Prepared by Dianne Brant

\*Our policy is to publish information regarding concerns only with consent

*No report received at this time...*

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**(C) Children's Religious Education/Exploration - CRE**

Prepared by Rose Prestipino

Today (12-27-2024) I interviewed a 17-year-old candidate, Marea Denton, with Dianne Whitaker. She is a mature high schooler from the 5 Acre School and has family and community connections to several members. She would be able to work most but not all Sunday mornings at \$17 an hour for two and a half hours.

She would lead craft activities and read stories as well as discuss relevant things with students in the library. As student numbers increase, she would move to the classroom and be paired with an experienced adult and eventually, a new teacher hire. Due to her age, she does not need to be fingerprinted or have an I-9 completed. She will renew her CPR as needed.

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**(D) Green Sanctuary**

Prepared by Emily Beals

Green Sanctuary Forums will be moving to the 4th Sunday of the month per request of the incoming President who wishes to hold Bd. mtgs on the 1st Sunday  
Next Forum will be in the spring. GS will lead the Sunday Service on April 27.

Social Action would like to invite the congregation to a conversation after the service on Feb 23, to explore the possibilities of becoming more engaged with social justice issues that are being addressed by UU congregations across the country. It will take a Forum format, and the congregation will be encouraged to give feedback after a brief presentation.

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**(E) Healthy Fellowship Committee**

Prepared by Emily Beals

Update will be delivered in-person during the meeting.

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**(F) Landscape & Garden | Hardscape**

Prepared by Lou Foldoe

The landscape plants are resting for the winter. There are, however, some signs of life showing up already in new buds showing the promise of spring. Fresh compost is being added around the flower beds. The flower garden near Barr Road has been cleaned up and the debris hauled off. The rain garden is being regularly tended and new compost has been added. Cyndi Ross reports that there is considerable interest in this project from the community.

Michael Bucierka is discussing some hardscape needs identified by Lou Foldoe. The outside lights are not all functioning but are not critically needed at this time. The building needs a moss treatment in the near future.

The neighbor's well has been completely separated from the OUUF well thus solving a slow leak problem.

Many thanks to the hard-working volunteers.

Lou Foldoe, Chair

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**(G) Little Free Pantry – LFP and Little Free Library - LFL**

Prepared by Florence Bucierka or Vicki Sensiba

**LITTLE FREE PANTRY REPORT**

For Board of Directors January 2025

**FOOD**

Food usage continues to be generally heavy. The hygiene supplies are also extremely popular.

**BUDGET**

With the deposit of the Haller Grant funds, the LFP balance at the end of November was approximately \$20,000.

**OTHER ISSUES**

**Meeting Change**

At the last meeting the committee members agreed to begin meeting every other month (next meeting in January) on the 4th Friday of the month. The change from 3rd to 4th Friday is being done in the hopes of having the most recent financial data available for the meeting.

//signed//

Vicki Sensiba

Committee Chair

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## **(H) Membership**

Prepared by Emily Beals

Membership will be introducing five prospective members to the Board for their review and acceptance at the next Bd. mtg. on Jan 5.

New Member Welcoming Ceremony will follow the service on Jan 12.

New Member Orientation will be Jan 26, directly after the service. It will last one to one-half hours and include presentations by Membership Committee, sharing by the new members and introduction to the work of the Fellowship Committees by Committee Chairs or their representatives. The orientation is open to anyone interested in learning more about the history of UU in America, the Fellowship Movement of which we are a direct descendent and our own OOUF history. We are requesting that new members plan to attend.

We would like the Board to clarify whose names will be on the Roster. We are suggesting that Members and Friends who want to be listed constitute the Roster. We would also like to consider adding photos to the Roster and request the Board's approval.

We are also suggesting that Membership take responsibility for updating the Roster at least once a year but ideally twice and work with the Admin. to send it out twice a year.

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## **(I) Sunday Services**

Prepared by Bob Nuffer

November Committee Minutes

The Committee met on December 8, 2024. We discussed asking individuals to begin sharing joys and sorrows by introducing themselves. We discussed paying Julia McKenna-Blessing for her speaking at services. The committee recommended returning to the practice of not paying her since she is a member of the Fellowship despite her being an ordained minister. The committee discussed schedule for March and April. Bruce Bode will be delivering the Easter service on April 20. There will not be a potluck Sunday in March since there are five Sundays in the month and we will have a Sunday Brunch service on March 30. The committee asked Bob Nuffer to contact Ankur Delight and invite him to speak again.

Bob Nuffer

### *\*Other Notes:*

- The Endowment Committee does not submit separate report; may report under finance.
- The Nominating Committee typically reports annually not monthly.